

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

17. (New) Apparatus for conveying fruit and vegetable products, for example grapes, comprising a hopper device suitable for receiving said products and screw-feeder arrangement suitable for conveying said products towards an outlet zone, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has a variable pitch.
18. (New) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said pitch grows going towards said outlet zone.
19. (New) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder arrangement, portions, each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch.
20. (New) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a first portion, in which said pitch is about 200 mm.
21. (New) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a second portion, in which said pitch is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.
22. (New) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a third portion, in which said pitch is about 300 mm.
23. (New) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a fourth portion, in which said pitch is about 400 mm.

24. (New) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement is arranged below said hopper device.
25. (New) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said hopper device comprises a hinged side element.
26. (New) Method for conveying fruit and vegetable products, for example grapes, comprising using a variable pitch screw-feeder arrangement.
27. (New) Method according to claim 26, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has a variable pitch growing along a conveying direction of said products.
28. (New) Method according to claim 26, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder arrangement, portions, each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch.
29. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a first portion, in which said pitch is about 200 mm.
30. (New) (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a second portion, in which said pitch is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.
31. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a third portion, in which said pitch is about 300 mm.
32. (New) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a fourth portion, in which said pitch is about 400 mm.